

I am proud to represent an organization that has spent so many years in the service of others. I wish to extend my thanks, and the thanks of all those who have been helped by members of the Club. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting Skippack Lions Club on reaching this milestone.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
RUTH BARBER

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements and honoring the service of Ruth Barber.

Ruth has devoted much of her life in the service of others. Much of that time was service to the United States Postal Service. Most recently, Ruth served as the National PAC Chair with the National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS) until she retired.

Ruth grew up in New Athens, Illinois, "on the wrong side of the tracks" as she puts it. Her father was a coal miner and her mother was a housewife. Ruth married Raymond Barber on August 30, 1941 and he passed away in 1982. Ruth and Ray had two children, a son Richard who passed away in 1995 and the "joy of her life," her daughter Barbara.

Ruth worked as a drill press operator at the Bostich Wire Staple plant during World War II. While at Bostich, Ruth was responsible for drilling the barrels on Garrand rifles and inspected the 30 and 50 caliber shells at the small arms plant in St. Louis, Missouri.

Her service with the United States Postal Service began in 1967, as a clerk in the U.S. Post Office in Freeburg, Illinois. The local Postmaster at the time, Mr. Herbert Baltz, hired Ruth and she then worked in every position available at the Post Office in Freeburg. She started as a clerk, and also worked as a window clerk, Supervisor, finance office, Assistant Postmaster and the Officer in Charge (OIC). She was appointed the U.S. Postmaster of Freeburg in October 1979.

Her involvement with NAPUS started in 1975, when she was a Supervisor. Her active involvement in NAPUS activities allowed her to be appointed as the State Chair in 1990. Ruth has attended every state convention of NAPUS since 1982 and has attended all the national conventions as well. Ruth also has attended every Leadership Conference in Washington, DC since 1982. She retired from the active service with the United States Post Office on August 30, 1990 but remained active in the community having served with the Freeburg Chamber of Commerce.

Ruth works tirelessly in the service of the USPS and NAPUS. I have visited with Ruth on more than one occasion where she has strongly advocated the issues and concerns of the working men and women of the United States Postal Service. She has a genuine, personal interest in helping to improve the working conditions at the Postal Service. Ruth performs all of her duties with a tremendous gusto and enthusiasm, unique to her. I am proud to honor the service of Ruth Barber and wish her all the best in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service and the achievements of Ruth Barber and wish her and her family all the best.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE MUELLER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to honor an outstanding citizen and a community hero. Stephanie Mueller of Pagosa Springs, Colorado showed quick thinking and level-headedness in the face of personal danger and helped to prevent a catastrophic forest fire. I am honored to share her story here today.

Stephanie was traveling in Archuleta county when she noticed a fire in the trees. Unable to contact local authorities immediately, Stephanie took her shovel and began digging a fire line around the burn area. As others arrived at the site, Stephanie was able to use the skills she learned as part of a Forest Service hand crew to instruct onlookers as to what they could do to help her keep the fire contained until Archuleta Country firefighters arrived and extinguished the blaze.

This is the second time Stephanie has saved her community from a devastating fire. Three years ago Stephanie encountered another fire while driving in the Coyote Park area, which she helped to extinguish. For her efforts in that fire, Stephanie received the much-deserved Angel of the Highway award.

Mr. Speaker, Stephanie Mueller's courage is an inspiration to us all. As ashes fell on her head and shoulders, Stephanie sacrificed her own personal safety for the good of her community. I join with my colleagues and a grateful community in extending my thanks and appreciation to Stephanie Mueller.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE (EBRI)

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) on its 25th Anniversary. Over the last quarter century, Congress has been expertly informed by the Institute's bipartisan and balanced analysis of retirement and health benefits issues. I, therefore, ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this important milestone for EBRI.

Efforts to privatize Social Security, the ongoing corporate governance and pension scandals, and the need to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare make the work of EBRI now more important than ever. Members have come to trust the Institute's data and analysis of these complex issues and today we recognize their contributions to the ongoing debates in these areas.

In addition, I appreciate the fact that they are not advocates. Instead, the Institute simply provides the unvarnished data and let the

numbers speak for themselves. Their work has helped me to more thoroughly evaluate policy options. I would like to thank them for the assistance they've provided over the years.

Mr. Speaker, as the Employee Benefit Research Institute celebrates its 25th Anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to its significant accomplishments and dedication to public service. I'm sure they will continue to serve Congress and our nation for decades to come.

THE PENSION FUNDING EQUITY  
ACT OF 2003

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join BILL THOMAS, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, JOHN BOEHNER, Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and GEORGE MILLER, Ranking Democrat on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, to introduce the "Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003." This bill responds to the most pressing pension issue of the day that affects the retirement benefits of 44 million American workers, their families, and beneficiaries. I am pleased that bipartisan cooperation has allowed this process to move forward and enabled us to take action on this important issue.

The lack of retirement security for millions of workers is an issue that demands our immediate attention. More than 50 percent of American workers who work full-time and play by all the rules of corporate America have no retirement benefits. I will not rest until this Congressional body takes the necessary steps to correct this disparity.

The issue addressed in this bill is of great importance as well. The fortunate few workers who do have a pension benefit under our defined benefit system are depending on us to protect those benefits. This bill would accomplish this goal for the next two years by providing plan sponsors the certainty they need in determining the amount that must be contributed to the plan. However, a permanent solution to this issue must be found.

The long-term viability of the defined benefit plan system is crucial for the secured retirement of millions of American workers. Designing a plan to maintain this viability will be a challenge we must undertake over the next two years. Any permanent solution must balance the competing elements of this issue, including (1) providing financial relief to employers who maintain defined benefit plans, (2) protecting the financial security of the pension benefits promised to workers under these plans, and (3) protecting the financial strength of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the agency that insures benefits under these plans. I remain hopeful that we can work together to accomplish these goals.

I have long supported the idea of advancing legislation on this issue in a free and unfettered manner. This issue should not be held hostage to additional pension reforms that have little or no chance of being enacted this year. I am pleased to co-sponsor this legislation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to develop a long-term solution to this issue.

## TRIBUTE TO LOWELL THOMPSON

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a selfless community servant and dedicated veteran from my district, Lowell Thompson of Trinidad, Colorado. As Commander of the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lowell tirelessly dedicates his time to his fellow veterans and the youth of his community.

Lowell was drafted to fight in World War II prior to completing high school and served in Germany for two years. Thanks to a law recently passed by the State of Colorado, veterans who left high school early to serve their nation can now receive their diploma. Last year, alongside four of his fellow veterans, Lowell received his diploma in a ceremony at Rio Grande High School. Selflessly, Lowell chooses not to focus on his military service, but rather on his community.

Lowell's VFW chapter works with local schools, promoting various competitions among all grade levels. Lowell loves spending his time with other veterans and often visits them in hospitals and nursing homes throughout Las Animas County. In addition to his service to the VFW, Lowell worked as a Sears Catalog Merchant for twenty-three years. Prior to his time with Sears, Lowell tried his hand at farming in the San Luis Valley. Today, when not attending to his duties with the VFW, Lowell spends his time with his family.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today in applauding the hard work of Lowell Thompson. I commend Lowell on receiving his diploma and on his many successful endeavors as Commander of his local VFW chapter. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZETA TAU ALPHA'S EPSILON CHAPTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-FAYETTEVILLE

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Zeta Tau Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, who will celebrate their 100-year anniversary this year.

Founded back in 1903, Epsilon is the longest existing chapter of the Zeta Tau Alpha (ZTA) national sorority. Seven women in particular—Elizabeth Kell Rose, Hattie Williams, Margaret Hutcherson, Grace Jordan, Bess Byrnes, Della McMillan and Mabel Sutton—were instrumental in establishing the first ZTA chapter west of the Mississippi River.

The mission of Zeta Tau Alpha is to make a difference in the lives of their membership by developing the potential of each individual through visionary programming. They emphasize leadership development, community service, academic success and continued personal growth for women.

Later this month, Epsilon will celebrate this historical milestone with a series of events in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I look forward to joining them for an Arkansas-Alabama football game watch party they are holding on September 26, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that Epsilon has enjoyed 100 successful years because of the wonderful women they attract to their sorority. Epsilon sisters are committed to their traditions, heritage and friendships that last a lifetime. These are among the core values that tie us together as a society and as Epsilon has proven are important ingredients to the success of any organization. Please join me in honoring the Zeta Tau Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville on reaching the 100-year milestone and wishing them another 100 more to come.

WILLIAM DEARY, SBA 2003 MICHIGAN SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of William Deary the United States Small Business Administration 2003 Michigan Small Business Person of the Year.

In 1994 William Deary and his wife Cheri Lyn returned to her hometown of Jackson, MI and founded Great Lakes Home Health Services. Since that time the business has not only survived adverse conditions that saw almost a third of home health care companies close their doors, they have thrived. His commitment to his employees and the community was reflected by his decision to cut costs, but not lay off a single employee.

Today they have expanded the business now known as Great Lakes Home Health and Hospice, and are recognized nationally for their excellence in the field. In a national study conducted by Fazzi Associates Great Lakes Home Health ranked #1 in the country among agencies of similar size.

Mr. Deary is a leader in the Jackson community actively involved in assisting various organizations from the grass roots level to serving on the board of directors. He and his wife Cheri Lyn are the primary benefactors to the St. John Parish Educational Scholarship Program where they are parishioners. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of this program that allows children from families who cannot afford the expense, but feel their children would benefit from a parochial school education to do so.

William is also Chairman of the Board and a member of the Executive Committee of the Jackson Downtown Development Authority. In addition he is active and has served in various capacities on the boards of the United Way of Jackson, Disability Connection, Child Benefit Program, Junior Achievement and helped to raise funds for the Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson. He was honored in 1998 to serve as one of the Congressional appointees for the state of Michigan at the inaugural Small Business Summit and has been on the National Board of Directors of the Home Care Association of America.

William Deary is truly deserving of his recognition as 2003 Michigan Small Business

Person of the Year. He has met and exceeded all the criteria of: Staying power; Growth in employees; Increase in sales; Improved financial position; Innovativeness; Response to adversity; and Contributions to aid community-oriented projects. He has made the Jackson community a better place to live by his commitment to excellence in the services he provides and in his willingness to give something back to the community.

## TRIBUTE TO DONALD PALTHE

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this body of Congress to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Donald Palthe of Grand Junction, Colorado is both a devoted teacher and a talented entertainer. From writing lesson books to performing for the elderly in retirement centers, Donald's dedication and civic mindedness make him a credit to our community. I am privileged to share his story here today.

As a boy growing up in Holland during World War II, Donald taught himself to play the ukulele and later the banjo. Donald turned his love of music into a career and has entertained thousands of people over the years, playing under the name Don Van Palta. He played at several restaurants and bars before taking a position at Caesar's Palace on the Las Vegas strip. From there, Donald was then offered a position on a cruise ship, where he had the opportunity to travel all around the world sharing his music with others.

Today, Donald brings joy to the lives of many when he visits retirement centers and reminds the residents the music of their youth. Donald does not stop at playing the banjo, though. He also teaches the instrument to others. He has hundreds of students across the country who have benefited from his instruction books, finger charts, and videotapes. Donald is dedicated to these students and still takes phone calls from them whenever he can.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize a citizen who has given so much to his community. Donald Palthe's life-long efforts to spread joy through music have made Grand Junction a better place to live. His example of service and creativity model the spirit that make this country great. I join my colleagues in recognizing Donald's achievements here today.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE MEDDERS (1927-2003), FORMER MAYOR OF BAKERSFIELD, CA

**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a public servant, a devoted family man, and a close friend. Clarence Medders was born in Mississippi on December 7, 1927. Clarence served in the Army Signal Corps and graduated from teaching school, beginning a life-long pursuit to promote the education of young people.